To Bob Ranftel from Harold Weisberg 3/22/86

I forgot & read this earlier in Early July. Make a few comments while reading it again, enclosed.

As the regard to Nosenko, it is difficult to evaluate what with the passing of time & when I knew/believed in 1964 but unless he was either detached from any CIA comment on Nosenko or simple he could not believe some of this. Some just isn't true & what is central isn't relevant. If Warren says he didn't believe Connally but he heard him. Listening to Nosenko did not obligate the Commission to use or even believe a word he said, so Warren does not explain not even talking to Nosenko. Perhaps he was influenced by the LBJ line in persuading him to become chairman.

As you do, it's important to trust to generals, as Goldberg shows us history is too important to trust to historians. I have trouble believing that Goldberg is such a ninny.

Warren refers to extensive discussion of Nosenko at one ex. less only, 6/23. If you haven't read it you should! Ford was an agency (FBI+CIA) hatchet man then, to prevent listening to Nosenko.

I have some "new" Nosenko records that, with old records, can make a fine story, both CIA & FBI. But if any reporter is interested I want to deal with him personally.

HW

p.2 - LBJ told Warren the others had agreed to serve if he'd be chairman. While I doubt this is true because so many disliked Warren's views, per what Russell told me it is not true. Russell said he declined firmly and until he heard he had been appointed anyway had believed that LBJ had accepted his refusal to serve.

p.3 Warren discloses his instant assumption of Oswald's (Lone?) guilt. And Goldberg can't spell Tippit's name.

p.5 Warren discloses ignorance of the most basic forensic evidence, saying that when allegedly Bullet 399 struck the bones in 3 parts of Connally's body it didn't touch any bones. No wonder he said (p.4) that no court would have permitted use of the X-rays because that would have been very adverse to Oswald's interest. Oswald's lawyer would have used them, I'm sure.

p.6 Warren himself characterizes the Commission's conclusions as theory.

p.8 "Deleted" reference is to Howard Willens

Unnamed reporter: "The CIA cleared him of chicanery" not so.

Helms told Warren the CIA had finally checked Nosenko was a phony. Also not true.

p.9 Incredible that Warren says trial there been a trial it would have lasted only 3 days. Only with no defense at all?